Loyalty and *Fidelity*, *Rejected* and *Oppressed*.

Or the *CASE* of

George Everett

SHIPWRIGHT, Truly Stated;

Most humbly Offer'd to the Commons of *ENGLAND*, Assembled in

PARLIAMENT

Wherein is *Briefly* set Forth,

His Zealous endeavours for Promoting the Service of the *Publick* with the Obstructions and Illegal proceedings of some **Persons** imploy'd in the Administration of **Publick Affairs**. And the true Reason of those False **Aspersions** and Scandalous **Reflections**, Layd on him by,

The *Euemy's* of the *GOVERNMENT*.

LONDON,

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TO THE

HONOURABLE the *Knights*, CITIZENS AND BURGESSES,

Assembled in Parliament,

The Case of *George Everett, Shipwright*, Truly Stated, and most Humbly offered, to the Consideration of this *August* and Honourable Assembly.

Most worthy *Senators.*

HAVING made Observations of great abuses and Enormities, committed in his Majesties *Naval-yards*; I did in *March* 169$\frac{3}{4}$. make proposalls to the Lords Commissioners of the *Admiralty*, for saving 100000. Pounds *Per Annum* in building and repairing the *Royall Navy*; with a proposed Method to raise Money to carry on that Service; which might have been Effected by procureing 3286. Pound *Per Mensem* Which said Proposall appearing to be both Practicable and profitable to his *Majesty*, and the *Kingdom*, was then approved of by the Right Honourable the *Earl* of *Orford*, and Several Eminent members of this honourable House, and was Certified so to be, under the Hands of the *Lord Berkley*, Sir. *Ralph Delavall*, the *Earl* of *Danby*; the *Lord*

Mayor of *London*, and Several other preceding and Succeding *Mayors* and *Aldermen* of the ſaid *City*, and Several other Eminent Perſons, together with the Maſter, *Wardens* and Aſſiſtants, of the Company of *Shipwrights* of *London*, *Copies* thereof were laid before their *Lordſhips* and after often attendance being admitted a hearing at their Board the 8 day of *February* 1694 (the Commiſſioners of the *Navy* then preſent) the ſaid Propoſal was rejected; which being preſented to his *Majeſty*, in Councell, the 1*ſt*. of *March*, his *Majeſty* did then refer the ſame to the aforeſaid *Lords* of the *Admiralty*, which being laid before them the 26 of the ſaid Month, their *Lordſhips* (after often attendance) did on the 24*th*. of *April*, acquaint me that they had referred the ſame to the Commiſſioners of the *Navy*. The Propoſer attending their Honours, on the Twenty-ſeventh of *April* did lay before them a Copy of the ſaid Certificates with Several Heads in order to demonſtrate his ſaid propoſal, but finding by their dilatory proceedings, that they were not Enclinable to Eſpouſe the ſame; did on the 14 of *May*, offer to their Honours by many Witneſſes, to prove that by the Idle and Extravagant Practices; Committed in the ſaid Yards 100000. Poun *Per Annum*, was waſted and Deſtroyed: but the ſaid Commiſſioners inſtead of takeing Notice thereof; did defer me from time to time. But with much difficulty they apointed to hear me the 23 of *June*, when apearing with 12 Witneſſes: *viz*. *Maſter Shipwrights*, who were ready to Teſtify what was alledged, there was but two of them with my ſelf admitted, and heard, and that in a clamarous manner Their Honours threatning and Browbeating them, the whole time which was near, three Hours, and then by degrees departed out of the Room, Leaving us there without order of withdrawing or further attending. And on the 27*th*. of *June* their Honours did make a Large report to the *Lords* of the Admiralty full of Reflections, prevarications, and Manifeſt Falſehoods; wherein they ſet forth that they have not Heard of any of the ſaid Miſcarriages. After which I attending the *Lords* of the Admiralty, did lay before them ſeveral Schemes in order to Confirm and demonſtrate the ſaid propoſals. and did Produce many Witneſſes to prove the foreſaid Enormities and abuſes, but was often deferred and diſappointed, and in *July* 94. I was twice adviſed by Mr. *Southern* the then *Secretary*, of the Admiralty, that their *Lordſhips* would make a Report to the Council Board, the 12*th*. of the ſaid Month, which I ſignified to her late *Majeſty* and many *Lords* of the Conncil who did encourage the ſame, yet no Report was made thereof untill the 29*th*. of *January* Following, whereby I incurred their *Lordſhips* diſpleaſure as the *Author*, of that diſappointment; and that between the apointed and real time of delivering the ſaid Report, I often Prayed the *Lords* of the Admiralty to grant me a Copy of the *Navy-boards* Report, which I could not obtain, but at Length was admitted to hear part of the ſame read? which I obſerved

to be as before Represented; I gave their *Lordships* an answer thereunto in Writing, and did also move their *Lordships*, to hear Evidence to prove my allegations, in order to refute the said Report, and discover the said Enormitys committed in the said Yards, and after several delays and Disapointments, my request, upon the motion of *Collonell Austin* deceased, was allowed, and a time apointed to hear them; *viz.* the 30*th.* of *October*, 1694. Pursuant whereunto I did attend with Several Articles, containing great abuses, and Enormities Committed in the said Yards, with 12 Persons, most of them *Master-shipwrights*, to prove the same, and being called in about 11 of the Clock, *Capt. Priestman* being only present with the *Secretary*, did tell me that there was no Board, and he Believed that the rest of the Members had forgot my Business, and did then Direct me to attend with the Witnesses at 4 in the Afternoon; in answer to which I presented his *Lordship* with Several depositions ready drawn, Praying his *Lordship* to consider the Charge and Trouble I had been at in Getting so many men together, most humbly Praying that they might then be examined, and their Affidavits taken; which his *Lordship* refused. But attending according to order the said Witnesses being Examined, did testify my Allegations, and did offer to confirm the same upon Oath, but were not admitted; their *Lordships* then ordering Mr. *Burchett* one of their Clarks to Examine them over again in another Room, which he did in a Threatening manner; not Suffering them to Subscribe their Names thereunto: and then apearing again before their *Lordships*, they directed me to get them Sworn before a *Justice*, of the Peace, and bring the Depositions to them. Pursuant thereunto on the 27*th.* of *November*, I did return them the Depositions of 17 men (true Copies thereof being ready to be Produced) wherein was proved under 150. Heads, many great abuses and Enormitys Committed in his *Majestys* Yards; and by reason the Act for Stampt Paper was not then well understood, I was at the Charge and trouble to have them Thrice Sworne, which cost me above 10 Pound and that on the 29*th.* of *January* aforesaid, which was two Months after, a Report was made thereof to his *Majesty*, wherein their *Lordships* set forth, that they had heard the Proposer and Several Persons produced by him, and had the advice and report of the *Navy-Board*; but did not think fit to alter the Oeconomie of the *Navy*; but did agree with the proposer for * Paying the Workmen of the Yards with ready Money, wishing that the State of affairs would admit thereof; which would Certainly give Dispatch to his *Majesty's* Service, and Save his Treasure, tho' not near so great a Summ, as the

* *The paying the Workmen with ready Mony, being the Basis of my Proposal, might Hapily been Effected, with Procuring as Proposed* 3285. *Pounds* Per Mensem *which their* Lordships *did report, would Certainly give dispatch to the Service and Save the* King's *Treasure which is a full Demonstration of the Certaintie thereof, and of their* Lordships *Omission in not putting the same in Execution.*

Pro

Proposer Imagined. All which his *Majesty* on the 31. of *January*, was Pleased further to refer to the *Lords* of his most Honourable Privy Councell, appointed a Committee of Trade and Plantations; before whom, on the 1 of *April*, the report of the *Navy-Board*, was proved to be False and Prejudicial to his *Majestys* Service; and that Several other Illegall Practcies were so fully proved before their *Lordships*, againstSeveral Officers belonging to the said Yards then present, that the President of the Councill did declare, that Plain matter of Fact was fully proved against them; And that most Honourable Board did also declare that it was high time to make a Reformation in his *Majestys* Yards, and that they would appoint a time to Consider of the means. But the proposer Considering that Nothing could conduce so much to an Effectual cure as the laying the Wound more open, did on the *6th.* of *April* lay before their *Lordships* Several aditionall Articles relating thereunto, which their *Lordships* did gratefully receive; giveing the proposer Encouragement beyond Expectation; but on the discovery of the Plot(as I remember) their *Lordships* time then not permitting to Examine the same, that matter was referred to the *Lords* of the Admiralty, where the said abuses were so fully and plainly proved, that one of their *Lordships* did Solemnly protest that things were come to such a pass, that he did Believe it was Impossible for an Honest man to be amongst them. And after I had proved what I had offered, (the whole matter being Several days under Examination, which is Briefly drawn up in five Sheets of Paper ready to be produced) Their *Lordships* did in *September* 95 make another report to the *Lords* of his *Majesties* most Honourable Privy Councill, apointed a Committee as aforesaid, wherein they Set forth that they had heard the Proposer, and other evidence, and that they had dismissed Several offenders, and signed ordres to prevent the like abuses for the Future. But I never heard of more then one Person *viz.* the Master *Boatmaker* of *Portsmouth*, that was dismist amonst them all. After this the *Lords* of the Councill appointed a Committee as aforesaid the 3*d.* of *Febuary* 9$\frac{5}{6}$ did send for me and at my appearance did tell me that it did appear to them, that I had done the *Nation* a Sigual Piece of Service; and that I should be well rewarded for the same; directing the Clark of the Councill then attending, to draw up their Report to the *King*, highly in my Favour; andthat most Honourable *Board* did then also move his Grace the *Duke* of *Shrewsbury*, to recommend me to his *Majesty* for a reward; whereby his *Majesty* by an order of the 2*d.* of *February*, 95. was Graciously pleased to direct the *Lords* of the *Admiralty* to put me in some Employment in the *Navy*, or give me a Suitable reward and Bounty for my good Service, Care and Pains: which after Three Years attendance to my Damage, in Expence of time and Money 500. Pounds, I was disdainfully put off with 100. Pound without correcting those abuses, and Extravagant Practices. And altho' the Proposer and his proposalls were so Slighted and rejected by the

Admiralty and *Navy-board*, yet I do affirm (that which no Unbyaſſed Perſon can deny) that the ſaid Summ of 100000. Pounds *Per Annum*, might be now ſaved in building and repairing the Royal *Navy*, and that without any Damage to the *Oeconomie*, as they call it, if a Reformation ſhould be made agreeable to what hath been Propoſed, and ſutable Perſons Imployed in the Management thereof. To which I add that 300000. Pounds *Per Annum*, might be Saved in the *Navall* affaires, if that Service were well Managed.

2 That in the Year 95. I Printed and delivered Propoſals to the *Parliament*, for ſupplying the Royal *Navy* with able *Seamen* and *Marriners* upon all occaſions, and Preventing many abuſes committed by diſorderly *Preſſmaſters*, both by *Sea* and Land, together with the ſaving Severall Immence Summs of Money, Yearly Expended in Impreſs, Conduct and Bounty Money, with the Charge occſioned by employing *Preſſmacks*, and keeping *Seamen* in pay the *Winter* Seaſon, and ſecureing the Publick Trade of the *Kingdom* in time of War, as alſo preventing Several Hardſhips impoſed on *Seamen*, and *Marriners*, to the ruin of many Thouſands of them and their Families, as is Set forth at Large in the ſaid Propoſall.

3 After this being informed of great Embezelments made of his *Majeſties Navall-ſtores*, and being Encouraged by his *Majeſtys Royal Proclamation* of *Auguſt* 93. I obtained *Warrants* of the *Commiſſioners* of the *Navy* in the Year 95, to Seize ſuch ſtores; and altho' their Honours told me that they had Granted Several *Warrants* but had not any returns made thereof; yet I made ſuch diſcoveries, that one of the *Commiſſioners* at the *Board* told me he Believed all the *Merchants-Ships*, were fitted with the *King's Stores*, and at *Harwich* I Seized ſeveral Parcells of the *King's Navall-Stores*; Perticularly one great parcell of New cordage to the Value of 65 Pounds, which upon a Tryal ill Managed a verdict, about two Years after, was given againſt the *King*, and that my ſelf and others (for ſeizing the ſame) were abuſed as thieves and robbers, and our veſſell hired by the *Commiſſioners* of the *Navy*, was Seized by an Officer of the *Cuſtom-houſe*, to the Great Prejudice of the owner, as alſo of my ſelf and others: yet it is moſt notoriouſly evident, that the ſaid Goods were really Embezeled Stores, as the *Lords* of the *Admiralty* did confeſs, and I can plainly make appear, with the whole proceedings of that *Voyage*, and the refractory proceedings of Several of his *Majeſties* officers belonging to that Place, with their rejecting and contemning his *Majeſtys* Royal *Proclamation*, as alſo the *Warrants* granted by the Right honourable the *Earl* of *Romney*, and the *Commiſſioners* of the *Navy*. A Complaint at large hath been laid before the ſaid *Commiſſioners* and the *Lords* of the *Admiralty*, and Several *Affidavits* made thereupon without the leaſt Redreſs: and the ſaid *Commiſſioners* of the

Navy,

Navy, to ſtop my further Progreſs in that matter, have not only denied their *Warrants* to Search, but did alſo refuſe to pay the Thirds Purſuant to his *Majeſties* ſaid *Proclamation*; untill the Offenders were convicted: and to put a full ſtop to ſuch diſcoverys, they have often declared, that the ſaid *Proclamation* was againſt the Law, and have Threatened me at their Board for aſſerting his *Majeſties* Perogative in granting the ſame. And by their Employing their Sollicitor Mr. *Whitaker*, to Proſecute the Offenders, as by many Letters I have in my cuſtody it is manifeſt they did, many offences were Stifled, and Several others, *viz.* 12 *Bills* preferred and found at *Hickſes-hall* in *July* 95. with others Indicted at other times and in other Countys, were never proſecuted, whereby that Service was obſtructed; foraſmuch as there could be no conviction, without a proſecution, nor no rewards before Conviction; with many other Obſtructions too many here to Enumerate. And Complaints thereof being made to the Admiralty and *Navy* Boards, they referred the matter to him the ſaid *Whitaker*; to give advice what to do therein.

3 And being credibly informed of a Nuſance occaſioned by Water in his *Majeſtys* Double-dock at *Portſmouth*, about *September* 96. I made a Propoſal, the Commiſſioners of the *Navy*, to clear the ſame, and was referred to the Surveyor of the *Navy* (as the Proper Perſon Concerned in ſuch Affairs) who told me they had Engines already to do that; but if I would clear the Double-Dock at *Chatham*, I ſhould do the *King* a Signal peice of Service and be well Rewarded; whereupon on the 7*th*. of *October*, I laid a Propoſal before their Board to clear that Nuſauce; upon which their Honours directed me to go to *Chatham*, and diſcourſe the Officers of the Yard about it; which accordingly I did, and made Obſervations of the condition of the Dock, whereby I Obſerved, that by reaſon of a Large continual Spring the one half of the Dock was rendered uſeleſs, but I haveing before accuſed ſome of their Officers of ſome Illegal practices that were fully proved againſt them at the *Admiralty-Board*, they told me that Sir. *Samuel Moreland*, and others had attempted to do the ſame, putting the *Nation* to a greatCharge, to no Effect, and ſeemed to be regardleſs whether the ſaid Nuſance were removed or not; But having conſidered the whole matter, I made a tender to the *Navy-Board* the 2*d*. of *November* to remove the ſaid Nuſance for a certain Summ of Money to be paid when the work was compleatly finiſhed, and not before, giving, Several reaſons of the Conveniency that would attend the removeing the ſame; but my offers for ſome pretended reaſons were rejected, and the Nuſance continnued, and my ſelf put off with 40. s. for my Charge and trouble in going thither.

4 About two Years ſince I made propoſals to the *King* to ſave one Quarter part of what was expended in Tranſporting his *Majeſties* Sub-

jects

jects, prisoners at *War*; His *Majesty* in councill the 11th. of *March* 96 was Graciously Pleased to refer the same to the *Commissioners* Imployed on that Service who (to obstruct the *King's* Service) did on the 5th. of *April* make a false Report to his *Majesty* which being referred to a Committee of Councill, they the said *Commissioners* did falsely iustify the same; whereby the said Proposal was rejected, notwithstanding the Proposer offered to give what Security they were pleased to demand.

5 That on the 2d. of *May*, 97. I made a proposal to the *Lords* of the *Admiralty* for saving one full half part of what was Expended on that Service, offering sufficient Security, for the due performance thereof, and being by their *Lordships* directed to attend the said *Commissioners*, which I often did, they, after five weeks attendance, made another report full of Prevarications, and Falshoods, whereupon I prayed a hearing at their *Lordships-Board*, but could not obtain it, whereby the 2d. Proposal was rejected to the great prejudice of his *Majestys* Service.

In *February* 97. I presented his *Majesty* in Council with a Propolal for the re-building *White-Hall*, out of the Imbezelments of prizes and prize goods, and did also propose to Clear the Ruines thereof for 1000. Pound (but could never get the same Read.)

At the First Sitting of the last Sessions of Parliament, I made propolalls to the right Honourable the Lords of his *Majestys* Treasury for raising 4500000. Pounds *Per Annum*, for the Publick Service, which might be raised, without any Sensible Burthen to the Subjects, which is remaining under their *Lordships* consideration.

And in *April* last, my self, with a Friend, made discoverys to the *Commissioners* of the Customes of 39. Hogsheads of *French Wines*, which were Imported in one of the *King's* Ships, which after she was unrigged at *Plymouth*, was suddenly refitted, and made a Voyage to *Brest* in *France*, where the said *Wines* were Laded, and upon her Arrival again at *Plymouth* (to defraud the *King* of the *French*-dutys) the *Capt.* got one of his men to Swear they were *Spanish Wines* Loaded at St. *Sebastians*, and the same was so entered, and part thereof delivered there, the rest brought into the port of *London*, (this expedition cost the *King* near 1000. Pound) and in regard the Witnesses who were to prove the same were under the check of the *Capt.* I desired the *Commissioners* to send a Summons, to a person that we would Name, to testify the same, but they refused so to do; but to carry on the discovery, my Friend obliged himself to make good the mans Wages, if the *Capt.* did prick him Run. Whereupon the Person made an Affidavit, and 30 Hogsheads were Seized, and put into the *Kings* Ware-house, and afterwards the *Commissioners* compounded with the *Capt.* for 1791 Pounds, which they received; and, after three Months attendance they Flowting us for attending for a noone Wayters Place, (Instead of a Moyety which the Law allows us) they gave us but 32. Pound 12. s.

We also gave them an account of another *Capt.* that had embezeled some prize goods, to the Value of 5000. Pound, and delivered *Marchants* goods at unseasonable Hours, at *Deal*, *Chatham*, and the *Hope*; whereby his *Majesty* was defrauded of the Dutys, to prove which we were at the charge to produce Witnesses and Affidavits, but they took no notice thereof, neither would they return the affidavits altho' we often desierd it.

8 And whereas by one Act of Parliament made *Anno quarto et quinto* of his Present *Majesty* and the late *Queen*; Entituled an Act for continuing the Acts for prohibiting all Trade and Comerce with *France*, and for Encouragement of privateers. It wasenacted that all prize *Ships* and goods, should be preserved entire and free from Embezlements and not be Pillaged in any case whatsoever; with Directions for Selling the same, and applying the proceed there of for the Use of his *Majesty*, and the encouragement of *Seamen*. And hearing by dayly Complaints how the said Act was Violated by Several Commanders of his *Majestys* Ships, who not regarding the said Law, did frequently Sell such Ships and goods by Wholesale, as also great part of the *Cargo* and Furniture of others, to the great Prejudice of his *Majesty* and *Seamen*, who thereby were deprived of their Shares and proportions allowed by the said Act. And in order such Commanders should make Restitution, (about 12 Months since) I certified the same to the *Commissioners* for Prizes, who Promised to give me a reward if I could make it appear; which accordingly I did, and two Ships, upon the Evidence that I produced, were condemned in the *Admiralty* Court the 10*th.* of *March* last, but the said *Commissioners* sending for the *Capt.* that sold them, he produced an account upon Oath in the Nature of Debtor, and Creditor, and in the Ballance remains Debtor to the *King* about 30. Pounds. At my next attendance the *Commissioners* shewed me the account, and told me I was a pretty man to trouble them with such Storys; adding that the *Capt.* had given them an account upon Oath, telling me that I might take the same into another Room and peruse it, and return it again to them, which accordingly I did, acquainting them that the said Ships were worth Ten times more then the *Capt.* represented them; as I was ready to prove, which (on behalf of the *Seamen*) I have since proved in the high Court of *Admiralty*, but they gave me a Slight answer, telling me there was 30 Pounds coming to the *King*; advising me to go to him for a Gratuity; Several other great Embezlements of Prize goods and Furniture of prize Ships I laid before them; desiring their Honours to order the *King's* Proctor to sue for his *Majesty*, which they refused, but at Length they did send their Sollicitor with me to give him directions to profecute the offenders; whereupon one of them was arrested at the *King's* Suit, and Bail given but when I attended the Proctor to give my assistance in the Premises. He told me that unless I would defray the charge, he would

not

not proceed any further, whereby those Embezlements to the value of 10000 Pound were wholely lost, without any Recompence for my charge, and trouble. These and Several other great Embezlements, abuses and enormitys relating thereunto, I laid before the right Honourable the Lords of his *Majestys* Treasury the 20th. of *January* last, their *Lordships* then directing me to prove the Allegations thereof, which by substantiall Evidence I could do if I were at liberty.

9 In *December* last I laid before the *Lords* of the *Admiralty* a Moddell of an Invention for the Effectual weighing of great Anchors, in any Weather, far beyond any contrivance for that Service, (which by Demonstrable proof I can readyly make appear) which haveing past their *Lordships* approbation, with the *Commissioners* of the *Navy* then present, is now remaining, by their *Lordships* order, at their Office under consideration.

10 And whereas by one other Act passed the last Sessions of Parliament entituled an Act for the better Preventing the Imbezlements of his *Majestys* Stores of War &c. It is enacted that it shall not be Lawfull after the 24th. of *June* 1698. for any Persons, not being Contractors with his *Majesties Commissioners*, to make any Stores of *War*, or *Navall* Persons with the *Kings* mark, on the Penalty of 200. Pound, and that all persons in whose Custody any such Stores shall be found so marked, not being employed in his *Majesties* Service, being indicted and Convicted, for concealing or having such goods in their Custody, possession, or keeping, shall forfeit such goods, and the summ of 200. Pound; unless upon Tryal Certificates shall be produced, under the Hands of three *Commissioners*, to shew the cause and reason of such Goods coming to their Possession; and that if any action be brought against any Person Seizing or discovering the same, he shall not be damnified thereby, unless the Person in whose Custody such Goods were found, did produce and Shew such Certificate as aforesaid before such Suit or Prosecution was commenced.

11 And having since the 20th. of *August* last (being encouraged by the said Act) made Several discoverys of *Navall* Stores, marked with the *King's* Mark, I did, with one *John Sartain*, Indict Several offenders at *Hicklies-Hall* the begining of *September*, and before we received Notice for tryal, the said *John Sartain* did apply himself to the *Lords* of the *Admiralty*, who promised him great encouragement, telling him that they would direct the *Commissioners* of the *Navy* to take his discoverys, and prosecute the Offenders, but his reward should come from them. And upon his attending the said *Commissioners* they directed him to give them an account of all discoverys, which accordingly he did; and their Honours gave him their *Warrants*, directed to his *Majestys* Peace Officers, to bring the Offenders before them or some other *Justices* of the Peace,

to

to answer the Premises. Pursuant thereunto Several offenders were carried before them, and Discharged by them, without taking any Cognizance of the Fact; which being notified to other *Justices* they refused to meddle therein. And when the Persons Indicted were to be tryed, Mr. *Whitaker* Sollicitor to the *Admiralty* and *Navy-Board* (being directed by them to prosecute the Several Offenders) did advise us that the Indictments we had laid were not good in Law; and that he had prepared others which were prefered and found by the *Grand-Jury*, and the former quasht; and when those causes came to be tryed, the Court was of Opinion, that they had not Power by the said Act to try the same: whereby the Offenders were acquitted. After which I desired they might be Indicted in the Crown office, but Mr. *Whitaker* alledged that was not a proper place, adding that the said Act was defective, and that he would take care it should be amended the next Sessions of *Parliament*, and that in the mean time he would Indict them at *Hickses-hall* for Trespasses and Misdemeanors and after they were convicted he would sue for the Penalty in one of his *Majesties* Courts at *Westminster*. But being urgent to carry on the Prosecutions I attended him before the last Sessions of the Peace, and then he told me he would Prosecute all those, within the Jurisdiction of the *Old-Bayly*, in that Court, at their next Sessions, and the others at the *Assizes*; he being advised by the *Kings* Councill that the *Quarter-Sessions* was not a Proper place, directing me to give him a List of all discoverys above 20 s. Value, adding that the Smaller matters should be refered to the *Commissioners* of the *Navy*, for that the Prosecuting such would be lookt upon in Court as Vexatious and oppressive to the Subject. Pursuant thereunto I did forthwith carry a List of all such discoverys, but he not being to be found; I did the next day send the same by *John Sartain* who delivered it to Mr. *Whitaker*, and then Mr. *Whitaker* told him that the *Old-Bayly* was not a proper place to sue in, but he would prosecute them Above this Term, directing the said *Sartain* then to attend him. But Instead thereof, an order was procured from the *King* for our Prosecution. And by Vertue of the recorders *Warrant* we were both taken up and Committed, for Procuring *Warrants* from the *Commissioners* of the *Navy*, on pretence of detecting abuses Committed in Embezleing *Naval-Stores*, and Instead of bringing the Offenders to *Justice*, have Compounded with them to Stifle the Offence, and not Prosecuted them according to Law.

12. In Answer to which, I do aver, that since the year 95 I have not procured any Warrant from the *Commissioners* of the *Navy*, or any other Person, to search for Embezled Stores; neither been privy to any Warrant produced or granted, or pretended to be granted by the *Commissioners* of the *Navy* for that purpose; neither have directly nor indirectly compounded with any Person in whose Custody any such

Stores

Stores have been found, not to profecute them; neither been privy to the taking any Summ or Summs of Money to ſtifle any Proſecution, but if any ſmall Summ of Money was received; it was as a Corroborating Evidence of the Offenders guilt; or to allow them ſome ſmall time to produce (as they pretended) ſuch Certificates as the ſaid Act directs; and being, as aforeſaid, adviſed by Mr. *Whitaker* that the ſaid Act was defective, I have declined making any further Diſcoverys ſince the 19*th.* of *October* laſt; and for the ſame, with the foregoing Reaſons, not having yet the benefit of the Aſſizes, have not yet convicted any Offenders; neither hath any Perſon been yet Convicted by virtue of the ſaid Act. So that if any ſuch Proſecutions has been deferred it was by a Contrivance of the *Admiralty* and *Navy Boards*, and their Solicitor, or thro the deficiency of the ſaid Court who refuſed to Try the ſame; whereby it is manifeſt, that for my Integrety in promoting the Publick Intereſt, I have offended many of the Publick Enemies, who being incenſed againſt me, have a long time been contriving my Ruin; often threatning my Life, with other terrible and ſhameful Puniſhments, themſelves and their Agents boaſting of their ſecurity by their great Intereſt and Friendſhip at Court.

13. On the 11*th.* of *January* laſt I preſented to this Honourable Houſe, a Paper Intituled *A word in Seaſon*, containing a general Account of ſome Publick Grievances, with particulars relating to the Imbezeling of Prizes and Prize-goods, with ſome proceedings of the *Commiſſioners* for Prizes, which I intended to unfold to this Honourable Houſe, (which I conceive was the only motive that moved my Adverſaries to bring on this Proſecution againſt me) but having on the 3*d.* of *January* gave notice by Letter to Mr. *Lowndes*, that I could make Diſcovery of Prizes and Prize-goods Imbezeled to the value of 100000*l.* and more, and the Lords of the Treaſury being pleaſed to give notice by the *Gazett* of the 12*th.* that they would give all due Encouragement provided I could make out the ſame, I did on the 20*th.* of the ſaid Month lay before their Lordſhips 20 Articles relating thereunto, the greateſt of which might by this time been proved if I had not been reſtrained of my Liberty; but by reaſon of my Confinement ſome of them has been preſented to this Houſe by other hands, and my ſelf thereby partly circumvented in my deſign; ſo that for Indeavoring to ſerve my King and Country, I have not only ſpent my Time and Subſtance, but have alſo Purchaſed many powerful Adverſaries, who to ſtop me in proſecuting the Publick Intereſt, have and do contrive all ways and means to work my overthrow, which is no other then the real effects of Prejudice, for under thoſe ſpecious pretences before recited, they have prevailed with his Majeſty to grant his order for my Proſecution, which being effected I was Committed the 21*th.* of *January*, and in the *Poſt-Boy* of the 24*th* expoſed as if I had been the greateſt Criminal in

the whole Kingdom; and to prevent me from carrying on my Profecutions, the Dice are turned upon me, and the Offenders, by a ſecret Combination, are become my Proſecuters, which I humbly conceive is contrary to the Conſtitution of this Government, foraſmuch as I have Endeavoured, as much as in me lay, to proſecute the Offenders, by exhibiting Informations and perferring Indictments againſt them as before recited, for which I conceive I ought to have the priority in Proſecuting, and then if they or any other Perſon can charge me of doing any Unlawful act either in Perjudice to the King or Subject, that then they may proceed againſt me according to the utmoſt Severity of the Law. But being ſupprized and carried before Sir *John Houbland*, who would not accept of any but City Bail, which I having no Acquaintance there could not produce, I was Committed as aforeſaid the 21ſt. of *January*, and on the 26*th*. Summoned on the Penalty of 100 *l*. to make my Perſonal appearance at the *Kings-Bench-Bar* (on the 30*th*) to Anſwer an Information in the Crown againſt me for certain Treſpaſſes, Contempts and Miſdemeanors. Being Informed the 15*th*. Inſtant, that no Information was then Filled againſt me, and being charged with ſo black a Crime, my Friends were affraid to come near me, ſome of them being threatned with the ſame Fate if they do aſſiſt me, ſo that being deprived of Friends and bare of Money by reaſon of my ſeveral Services for the Publick Good; Being Ignorant in the Law and without Advice am now remaining in a Deplorable Condition, not knowing how to defend my ſelf againſt this violent Proſecution. And the ſaid *John Sartaine* is Bound by Recullifans to appear at the *Old-Baily* the next *Seſſions* of the Peace, and is alſo Summoned on the Penalty of 100 *l*. to anſwer an Information at the *Kings-Bench Bar* for the aforeſaid pretended Offence, and my ſelf Confined a Priſoner in the City liable to the ſame Penalty for not appearing at the *Kings-Banch-Bar* according to Summons.

14. The Premiſes thus truly ſtated, manifeſt it is, that the Villifiing and abuſing me, as a Rogue of the greateſt Rank, for doing the Duty of a Faithful Subject, for putting the Laws in Execution, is (as I humbly conceive) a Reflection upon the Judicious proceedings of the Lawmakers; foraſmuch as the ſame Reaſon that induced them to make ſuch Laws, encouraged me to put the ſame in Execution, and whereas I am charged for ſtifling Proſecutions, I do moſt humbly take leave to acquaint your Honours that after the expence of 30 *l*. in Proſecuting a Captain the laſt *Michaelmas* Term for Embezeling a Prize-Ship and Goods to the value of 80000 *l*. after two motions to defer the ſame, and two appointments for the Tryal, the laſt of which was the laſt day but one of their ſitting out of Term, altho the Cauſe was called, and the Jury ready to be ſworn, I was then diſappointed by reaſon that one of my Counſel (after he had

had taken his Fees) departed the Court; true it, is the Lord Chief Barron, to his everlasting Praise, did as much as in him lay to bring the Cause to Tryal, which being about Nine of the Clock in the Evening, did declare that he would be contented to hear it that Night or the next Morning or Afternoon, adding that there should be no Complaint against him; so that if any neglect has been in carring on any Prosecutions I humbly conceive it ought not to be laid to my Charge.

15. And forasmuch as it is the undoubted Right of this Honourable House to enquire into and Redress Publick grievances, so I humbly conceive that every Subject hath the Priviledge to lay such grievances before them, provided it be done with decency and respect; and finding (by dear-bought Experience) that no Redress was to be obtained elsewhere, I did (with most humble Submission) present to this Honourable House, in hopes of their Honours Protection, the aforesaid Paper Intituled, *A word in Season*, wherein is set forth, under several heads, many Publick and unparaleld grievances committed during the late War, which I shall be ready to prove whensoever this Honourable House will be pleased to hear the same, whereby it will Evidently appear what Persons has been employed in the Administration of Publick Affairs, and how far I have Indeavoured to promote the Publick Interest; Most humbly praying your Honours to consider the strength of my Powerful Adversaries, and vouchsafe to sheild me under the Protection of this Honourable House, until some method may be found for carring on those Prosecutions which (it is said) I have Compounded and Stifled; not that I fear the Law, but being (for my Integrity and Diligence) surrounded with many potent Enemies, who, if it be possible, will turn the true Course of the Law to my prejudice, which if I can but obtain the favour of being heard before a Commitee of this Honourable House, I doubt not to make my Innocence appear and gain Repute thereby; which to effect, having little Acquaintance with the Honourable Members of this House and being under Confinement, I do most humbly pray that this my Case may obtain the effect of a Petition and that a Commite may be appointed to examine the Allegations thereof, otherwise no Person can be in safety that doth apeare against Publick Offenders, who if their Mersenary, Corrupt and Illegal Practises be countenanced and continued, then it consequently follows that the generality of Mankind will indeavour to Imitate them, whereby the design of all that is Good will be defeated, and this once so Flourishing a Kingdom, become the most miserable, without hopes of Recovery.

16. To which I most humbly add that, at my first appearance upon the publick Stage, I did not design any Advantage to my self, but that the Nation being ingaged in an expensive War, might by frugality the better carry on the same, I being then in a thriving Condition,

altho-

into place reduced, by carrying on my several Services. In all which if it should appear to this most Honourable House, that the detecting and discovering Publick grievances and the making proposals and tenders to save the Publick Treasure, and to serve the Publick as I have done, is now become so great a Crime, that then I (who conceived otherwise) may for this time obtain a Pardon for my simple Integrity, and that some Law may be passed to make the same Criminal for the future, to the end other well-meaning Persons may avoid the like unhappy Fate.

17. Thus having briefly laid before this Honourable House my Case, with a summary of my Proceedings, I do most humbly submit the same to the Consideration of this most August and Honourable Assembly, to whom (as the Fountain of Justice) I do most humbly make my Appeal in this Exigency, and that God Allmighty may Bless you in all your Counsels and Consultations, and that they may Center in the Redressing the Publick Grievances and Calamities of this Kingdom, is and shall be the Prayer of

Your Honours

Poultry Counter, the 15*th*. of *February*, 1698.

most Obedient,
tho' Envied and Afflicted,
Servant,
George Everett.

F I N I S.